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of history in its broader sense, he proceeds to an arraignment of "middle-class" economics, particularly the institutions of private property and capitalistic interest.

The author's attack upon interest is directed at both the productivity theory of Clark, and the time-preference or "impatience" theory of Böhm-Bawerk and Fisher. Clark's theory, he asserts, follows the mistaken assumption of most economic thought, that existing societal conditions are "natural." Clark does not prove that capital is specifically productive or that interest is not institutional robbery. He mistakes the transitory for the permanent and his economic solution is obtained through ethical confusions. The criticism of the impatience theory is that it is static and subjective, that its natural necessities are misconstrued and its ethical status a false conception. Individual time-preferences vary infinitely and are objectively influenced by social conditions to such great degree that an excuse for interest cannot be evolved therefrom. Free competition, the cornerstone of the final utility theory, does not exist.

There are occasional weaknesses in the author's reasoning. He confuses capital and the capitalist, using the terms interchangeably and assigning the shortcomings of the person to the institution. He does not satisfactorily prove his thesis that interest is exploitation. His "creative contribution" test carries us no farther than Wieser's "productive contribution" nor is it so scientifically developed. His attempt to substitute creation for imputation to determine the return to capital is a failure, for the creative quest has already passed the point of diminishing returns. Although having many of the earmarks of a propaganda of socialistic thought, the book is remarkably sane, and is valuable as an endeavor to promote wider application of ethical principles to economic thought.

Social and Economic Survey of a Rural Township in Southern Minnesota. By CARL W. THOMPSON and G. P. WARBER. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1913. 8vo, pp. v+75.

This is a highly intensive study of a rural township. The data have mostly been gathered first hand from 136 families in a territory of 36 square miles. The facts gathered corroborate a number of prevalent beliefs. Thus, there has been an increase in the number of rented farms, amounting to 35 per cent in 1912, and also an increase in the number of absentee landowners, about 25 per cent of whom have never seen the farms they own. There is a decrease of interest in religious and political matters; a tendency toward exclusiveness among farmers and to class-distinction between country and town people, and an apathy toward country life in general, the young men going to the city "for something better" and young women not liking "to stay on the farm if they can help it."

Some of the salient facts of improved agriculture are shown by partial

success in co-operation; better adjustment of the type of farming by change from wheat raising to diversified crop and live-stock raising, with a better distribution of labor and a more regular income; and the adoption of community breeding among at least half the farmers. But the problem of agricultural labor is as great as ever.

No attempt has been made in this treatise to show the distribution of agricultural income, upon the proper adjustment of which the prosperity of the rural community hinges.

The Church and the Labor Conflict. By PARLEY PAUL WOMER. New York: Macmillan, 1913. 12mo, pp. x+302. \$1.50 net.

The announced purpose of this book is to supply, to some extent, concreteness to the current discussion of the social mission of the church. A preliminary statement of the class character of the labor conflict and a brief tracing of the rise of the proletariat class through the different stages of slavery and serfdom to the present wage-system, are followed by a discussion of what should be the attitude of the church toward some of the more definite social problems, such as woman and child labor, open or closed shop, the use of violence, justice for the wage-earners, etc. The growth and development of the co-operative movement is noticed and the work of the labor courts, especially those of Australia and New Zealand, is discussed. While the author has no panacea which he thinks the church should offer as a solution to our labor problems, he nevertheless states that it is the duty of the church to meet the issues involved in our present social problems face to face, without shirking; and in some way endeavor to bring about the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

The book does not pretend to be a full discussion of the labor conflict. It merely takes up the main points. The questions are discussed in a clear and simple style which makes the book suitable for the general reader. A selected bibliography comprising some of the best-known authors on the social questions of the day offers aid to anyone wishing to continue the study farther.

State Laws Limiting Marriage Selection: Examined in the Light of Eugenics. By CHARLES B. DAVENPORT. (Eugenics Record Office, Bulletin No. 9.) Cold Spring Harbor, L.I., 1913. 8vo, pp. 66. \$0.40.

Dr. Davenport has divided state laws restricting marriage into three groups: "(1) laws limiting the physical and mental conditions of the consorts; (2) laws limiting consanguinity; and (3) laws concerning miscegenation." He tests the eugenic validity of each of these classes of legislation by appeal to general principles of heredity and by the citation of actual family records which give an effect of reality to the argument though they could hardly of